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U-2 Pilot Powers Mystery

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Washington

Former U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers is no longer employed by the Central Intelligence Agency, a CIA spokesman said yesterday.

Powers, who went to work for the CIA here after his release from a Soviet prison nine months ago, appears to have slipped quietly out of town. Employees at his former apartment house in Alexandria, Va., said he moved out October 8.

A secretary said she had been told to refer all requests for his forwarding address to the CIA.

But Colonel Stanley J. Grogan, assistant CIA director, said the agency has "no knowledge of his whereabouts." He refused to divulge the reasons for the separation or the date.

The pilot's father, Oliver Powers, reached in Norton, Va., was equally close-mouthed about his son's present circumstances.

He did volunteer, however, that his son "is still living, has a good job, his health is better, and he's not nervous any more."

The 32-year-old pilot sued his wife, Barbara for divorce last August. She filed a countersuit.

Powers spent 22 months in a Soviet prison after his U-2 photo reconnaissance plane was shot down on May 1, 1960. The United States swapped Soviet spy Rudolf Abel for him last February.

Chicago Daily News